

Ocean City, N. J.

July 30th 1892.

My dearest sisters Ellen & Jane.

I have intended writing to you, sister Jane, for a number of days, ever since I finished the bible cover, and yesterday I got your lovely letter, dear sister Ellen, so now I will write to both at once. I expect it will be a fearful looking letter, for I am writing on the arm of a chair of the porch of the hotel. Lots of people are around me, talking among themselves, and to me, so perhaps the sense of the letter will not be much better than the appearance!

Dear, sweet sister Ellen, glad as I was to get your letter it seemed almost like "the water from

well of Bethlehem" to David.
You took time in the midst of
your many cares and labors
to write to me, time when I sup-
pose you ought to have been in-
bed gathering strength for to-
morrow's labors. But I do thank
you for the letter. I enjoyed it
greatly. It seems a long time
since we had heard anything
from all you dear ones, and
now I feel quite posted. I suppose
Jennie and her babies are with
you before this time. How perfect-
ly delighted she must be to be
at home again. Five years is
a long time to be away. So many
changes, glad, and sad, have
occurred in the five years too.
I believe Sister ^{Jane} promised that
you all would come and see
us during J.'s visit, did you not
Sister Jane? Remember, please,

a promise is a solemn thing,
 and must always be kept! We
 expect to be at home soon after
 the 10th of August. It would be pleas-
 ant if you all could be there on
 dear papa's birthday, would it not?
 Please plan for it, and let me know.
 I want to see Jennie very much,
 and, of course, I want to see the
 babies. Harriet loves babies dearly,
 and will enjoy helping take care
 of the older ones. She has a baby
 in her arms a good deal of the
 time here, as there are plenty of
 them in the house - He came
 here eleven days ago - the entire
 Stites family - and are trying
 to enjoy ourselves. I, for my part,
 enjoy the entire absence of care
 and work, the good table all
 prepared without a thought on
 my part, - and also the bathing.
 The children delight in the lat-

ter, of course, and dash around
in the waves in a way which
I sometimes think will make
my hair turn gray! One after-
noon we all went sailing on the
bay which lies between this Island
and the main-land. Tom and
Sara have been rowing sever-
al times, and to-day they have
gone on a steamer which goes
about 25 miles out to sea to fish.
They took a lunch and will be
gone all day. There is a pos-
sibility that they will not
care much about their lunch.
However the sea looks very quiet
this morning, and if it continues
they will have a pleasant time,
I hope.

I hear from mamma often. She
is well except that she says the
ritual heat "milt's" her. I have
felt glad, however, that she

that she was at home, as I am sure she has many comforts which she could not have here. We have had sea breezes most of the time, but when we had not the heat was almost unbearable. It was impossible to remain in one's room, as the rooms are tiny, and, unless the sea-breeze is blowing, unendurable. I hope a change has taken place now in the weather, as we had a very heavy thunder storm last night, and this morning although the breeze is from the land it is comfortably cool.

Ellen is standing near me and sends her love and says she will help take care of Cousin Jimmie's babies. She looked so eager last night when I read your message to her, dear

for Aunt Ellen's & I'll give to
Sister Ellen. She often says
"I do love Aunt Ellen."

Scott is at ~~work~~ up stairs, on
his sermon. He is to preach
in Dr. Hodge's church the first
Sunday after he goes home.

Dear Sister Jane, I hope the
bible cover will be a good
fit this time. I think it
must certainly be large
enough. I wish I could
decorate it with your initials
or something, but you know
I am not artistic.

A great deal of tender love
to you both, to Jennie, and
all the dear ones.

Your loving sister
L. A. S.